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# BOOK REVIEWS.

GEORGE W. JAQUES, *Editor-in-Charge.*

LAW AND CUSTOM OF THE CONSTITUTION. By SIR WILLIAM R. ANSON, BART. 3 volumes. Vol. I: Parliament. 4th ed. Oxford: HENRY FROWDE. 1909. pp. xxvi, 404.

The fourth edition of Anson's *Law and Custom of the Constitution* follows the general plan of the first edition which was published almost a quarter of a century ago and has well served many generations of Oxford students who fain would master the mysteries of that imposing legal fabric. Very few pages have been added to the text as it stood in the last reprint, for the broad outlines of English institutions have remained unaltered since the electoral reforms of 1885. Nevertheless, Sir William has had to record the fact that changes even more significant than those in mere legal framework have been made in the operations of parliamentary machinery—changes recorded in the works of Low, Redlich, and Lowell, to whom our author pays just tribute. In fact, substantially all of the new matter which has been added to the volume before us relates to the recent developments in English parliamentary procedure—developments which seem technical and trivial to the careless observer looking for the spectacular in politics, but which go to the very roots of government and often twist legal framework all out of joint. Whoever feels quickened to join in the attack on Speaker Cannon and the Rules Committee will do well to ponder first upon Sir William's revised pages on the process of legislation (pp. 240-300) where he will learn how the English cabinet has been forced by the sheer pressure of legislative business to adopt the closure and guillotine. American students who last summer watched the waxing power of the Senate (in spite of the fact that revenue bills must originate in the House of Representatives) will discover in Sir William's new edition how the upper house will inevitably grow as the lower house ceases to be a free deliberative assembly. The other features of this work remain as they were originally planned and the student who would know the composition of the English parliament, the complicated qualifications on the suffrage, the privileges of the two legislative houses, the outlines of parliamentary procedure, the relations of the legislature and the executive, and the judicial functions of the high court of Parliament will find this compendium clear, manageable, and authoritative.

C. A. B.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF INTERCORPORATE RELATIONS. By WALTER CHADWICK NOYES. Boston: LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY. 1909. pp. lx, 924.

The first edition of this work, which appeared in 1902 was very justly reviewed in this magazine.<sup>1</sup> The reviewer, said, *inter alia*, "Judge Noyes' book is marked throughout by logical analysis, clear reasoning and scholarly preparation." "The noteworthy feature of

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<sup>1</sup>3 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 215.